

**ETH** zürich

# life

ETH community magazine  
June 2017

A nighttime photograph of an ETH building. The building has a modern, industrial design with a grid of windows and doors. Some windows are lit from within, and some have colorful posters or displays. A bright green light trail streaks across the upper left part of the image. In the foreground, a wet surface reflects the colorful lights from the building and the surrounding area. A white dashed line is visible on the wet pavement in the lower right.

**ETH by night**

The campus never sleeps



New video

## ETH in 100 seconds

3, 2, 1 – and off the Polybahn goes. This is the start of the new promotional film for ETH Zurich, which provides a fast-paced look at the many varied activities of the university. Over the course of 100 seconds – the length of a journey from Central up to the Polyterrasse – it presents the key facts and figures. The short film can be viewed on the ETH website or on its social media channels. It can also be downloaded by ETH members for use in presentations.

[www.ethz.ch/eth-trailer](http://www.ethz.ch/eth-trailer) →

Documentary

## ETH in 52 minutes

The TV channel Arte will be showing a documentary about ETH Zurich on 26 July at 11.50 p.m. The programme, entitled *Die Erfindung der Zukunft in Zürich* ("Inventing the Future in Zurich"), will show how ETH professors, undergraduates and postgraduates from all fields of research are working together to ensure a sustainable future. The film can be streamed online.

[www.arte.tv/en](http://www.arte.tv/en) →

ETH library

## New publication platform

The Research Collection is the new ETH Zurich publication platform which aims to help ETH employees to document, publish and archive their research output. As a central access portal, it serves as a publication directory, open access repository and research data repository.

[www.research-collection.ethz.ch](http://www.research-collection.ethz.ch) →

Citizen science initiative

## Biodiversity in cities

A joint project by ETH Zurich and HSR Rapperswil is looking into how wild plants propagate by themselves in cities. Anyone who wants to join in can get a box from the project team, fill it with soil and place it in the garden. Then you just have to wait and see what starts to grow. If you are interested, please contact [psc-expeditionen@ethz.ch](mailto:psc-expeditionen@ethz.ch).

Research and industry

## Meeting in New York

On 15 and 16 May 2017, ETH Zurich organised two symposiums on the subjects of blockchain technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning as part of the "ETH meets New York" event. Members of ETH Zurich and representatives of start-ups and international companies gave short presentations regarding the latest findings and then held discussions on the challenges and the potential of scientific progress for the worlds of industry and business.

[www.eth2nyc.org](http://www.eth2nyc.org) →



Photo: Avenir Cole

ETH premises

## New parking rates

New rates for indoor and outdoor parking areas at ETH Zurich came into effect on 2 May 2017. The adapted rates are a consequence of the new parking ordinance which was passed by the Executive Board in December 2016. Special conditions continue to apply for members of ETH Zurich and partner organisations.

[www.ethz.ch/new-rates](http://www.ethz.ch/new-rates) →

Scientifica 2017



Photo: Frank Brüderli

## What data reveals

The scientific community has access to huge volumes of data nowadays. How do researchers approach new methods of data collection, linking and distribution? What issues does this raise for society? Scientifica, which runs from 1 to 3 September, is all about digitalisation and will feature numerous exhibition stands, presentations, talks and shows.

[www.scientifica.ch](http://www.scientifica.ch) →

Services

## New online shop

The Print + Publish section of ETH Zurich will open a new online shop for printing jobs on 17 July. Thanks to the responsive web design, the shop can also be accessed on mobile devices. This allows customers to check the status of their orders, request prices or place a repeat order at any time with just a few taps.

[www.ethz.ch/print-publish](http://www.ethz.ch/print-publish) →

### Publishing information

*life – the ETH community magazine* is a medium for internal communication at ETH Zurich and is published quarterly in German and English by Corporate Communications (CC).

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### Cover image

Alessandro Della Bella



ETH publications

## New annual report and information brochure

The new ETH information brochure can now be downloaded online or ordered from the mailing department. The 40-page brochure provides an overview of the history of the university, its organisational structure and the most important key figures. The annual report, which was published at the end of April, provides information about the most significant achievements, developments and events of the last year. It is available in German, English and French.

[www.ethz.ch/annual-report](http://www.ethz.ch/annual-report) →

[www.ethz.ch/information-brochure](http://www.ethz.ch/information-brochure) →



Key figure

# 19,000

That's how many copies of *Globi und die verrückte Maschine* ("Globi and the Crazy Machine") were sold between the launch on 1 March and the end of May. This makes the volume, in which the famous Swiss cartoon character visits ETH Zurich, one of the most successful in the Globi series. An English translation will be available from September in bookshops and at the ETH Store at a discounted price.

[www.eth-store.ch](http://www.eth-store.ch) →

# The campus never sleeps

While most employees and students are heading home, the late shift is just beginning for some. We take a look at a night at ETH Zurich.

**Text** Andrea Schmits

**Photos** Alessandro Della Bella

"Which 95-year-old announced his retirement from public life today?" asks Brett Stirling. He is in the middle of running a pub quiz in the Alumni Lounge. It is 8 p.m. Many ETH members are rounding off their day with a quiz here on the Hönggerberg campus. While the teams put their heads together to discuss the answer – wasn't it Prince Philip? – restaurant manager Nurcan Inak explains her concept for the Alumni Lounge: "We hope our events will encourage people to spend

more time on the campus." From the autumn semester onwards, there will be a daily programme of events including live music, games evenings, karaoke and exhibitions. The lounge already hosts events several times a month and it is busy on evenings when there is nothing planned as well. "People come here to chat, work and switch off," says Inak, placing the caipirinha she has just prepared on the bar. "Many of them come after a sports match or training session and stay for a beer."

Loch Ness next door is a good place for beer too. On this particular evening

Evening tae kwon do lessons at the Hönggerberg Sport Center





SSHE staff member Rolf Isaak patrols the halls below ground on the Zentrum campus.



ETH members hard at work at the Alumni Lounge pub quiz.



Great beer, great prices: the popular Loch Ness beer festival.



in May they are holding a beer festival, with 15 beers from 10 different countries available to try. The smell hits you as soon as you walk through the door. It is busy, loud and dimly lit. Tim Kappeler, an architecture student in his sixth semester, organised the party. The bar is run by the AIV (the civil engineering students' association), a VSETH association, and is open every Tuesday and Thursday. "Everyone who works here is a student. They work two to three times a semester for free," says Kappeler. This is no surprise, given that the bar doesn't make any profit with its prices: "This is by far the cheapest beer in Zurich,"

says Chris Vinck. He has come straight from the ASVZ gym and has dropped in on his way home.

The gym in question at the Höggerberg Sport Center is still busy. It is now 9 p.m. It is slowly getting dark and it has started to rain. The people here are mostly men, lifting weights, using the fitness machines and doing sit-ups on the mats. In the sports hall, meanwhile, a handball training session is taking place. "You have to run faster!" shouts the trainer. "Let's go! One more time!" Sweaty and red-faced, the players dart around the court. The ball flies back and forth until: "Yes! It's a goal!" ▶

Christof Körber makes the rounds on the Hönggerberg campus



Kitchen staff at the Polyterrasse canteen are already working at 5 a.m.

There's lots still going on in the adjacent rooms as well. Salsa, ballet, tae kwon do – all of the courses are well attended. The Sport Center is open until 10.45 p.m. on weekdays. While some people are celebrating, others are still sweating.

### Security and order

A 69 bus is driving up to the bus stop. Despite the late hour, it is bringing a good dozen people to the campus. "In the last couple of years, we have seen an increase in the number of events. That has led to more night-time disturbances," says Christof Körber from the security service of the Safety, Security, Health and Environment department. He has been working at ETH Zurich for 19 years. Today he's on the late shift. In the HCO car park, he checks the delivery entrance for the chemistry department. "That needs clearing away," says Körber, pointing to empty containers stacked up against the wall. Behind the containers is the emergency shower which is used in the event of chemical accidents. "Otherwise you could lose valuable seconds in a contamination situation." During his shift, he makes sure that all doors are locked and escape routes are clear. Alarm calls are received by the Emergency Desk first and are then forwarded on to him. Many are of a technical nature – for example,



Students work late into the night on their architecture projects.

if the ventilation or another system in a room stops working. In laboratories in particular, this can lead to dangerous situations.

"Hi, this is the ETH security service. We're locking up now, if you could make your way out please." Körber comes across lots of people still working in the computer rooms at this late hour. "Before the exams, you notice the nerves in the students," says Körber. In the architecture department's design studio in the HIL building, you would hardly know it was 11 p.m. Project deadlines are coming up

and the room is full of students working on their models. It's a scene of creative chaos. The tables and floor are covered with scraps of paper and tubes of glue, along with crisps and empty drinks bottles. "We'll get the last bus home at 1 a.m.," says Cilgia Salzgeber, a first-year architecture student. She'll even be pulling a couple of all-nighters right before the deadline. On these occasions, she only has time to go home for a quick shower before it's time to get back to university again.

There are people still working in the HPK basement a few buildings further along as well. In the biology department, the nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer is working at full speed. The machine, which is around four metres tall, works all year round without interruption. Its job is to analyse tiny samples of substances such as isolated proteins and active components of medicines. "It enables us to study even the weakest signals from atoms and atomic nuclei," explains Alvar Gossert from the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biophysics. Every few nights, there are doctoral students or other institute members on site. They take the narrow test tubes containing the samples out of the machine and replace them with new samples. They have to make sure that they are not wearing anything metallic before entering the room, because the machine generates the largest magnetic field at ETH. It would stop a watch immediately.



Chopped vegetables for the canteen's lunch offering.

It's the same in other departments such as the Departments of Materials Science or Chemistry and Applied Biosciences – the research never stops. There may only be people on-site on rare occasions, but the machines run day and night. The campus never sleeps.

### Polyterrasse in the moonlight

It has stopped raining. At 2 a.m., the sky is full of stars. Only the odd light is still on in the student accommodation. The security service patrols both the Hönggerberg and Zentrum campuses all night long. Partygoers finish off one last beer as they slowly make their way home along the Polyterrasse. Later that morning, the cleaning staff will have to pick up their rubbish.

The bQm bar closed a couple of hours ago after a DJ set earlier in the evening. The ETH main building is dark and quiet. But there are still a few tables occupied: some students are working through the night to prepare for their exams.

For the staff at the Polyterrasse canteen, the new day starts around 5 a.m. The kitchen crew of catering firm SV spend hours producing takeaway products, baking focaccia, tarts and biscuits and preparing the lunch offering. "During term time, 2,500 people eat here every day in the main canteen alone," says purchasing manager Mio Grbic. At the same time, the staff in the kitchen under the Polyterrasse also make products for lots of other SV facilities all over Zurich.



Suppliers deliver tonnes of food in the early morning.



Won't wipe off: Rolf Isaak examines a tag beneath the Polyterrasse.

Outside, it's getting light. One lorry after another pulls up outside the delivery entrance in the underpass. Some days the men bring a few hundred kilos of food, other days it's several thousand. Today is a fairly quiet day. "The most hectic time is November with ETH Day and the Polyball," says Grbic as he checks the

delivery. The temperature of the frozen berry mix is minus 20.6 degrees. Perfect.

In the main building, Rolf Isaak from the security service is starting the early shift. It was a quiet night. The doors of the ASVZ Sport Center opened again at 6.30 a.m., and the early birds are already back on the exercise bikes. Meanwhile, Isaak patrols the buildings, checking whether any walls have been defaced overnight, making sure the fire brigade access to the Polyterrasse is clear, and checking entrances and exits with his huge collection of keys. He covers many kilometres every day on his rounds.

While Isaak makes his way to the buildings on Gloriestrasse, the café bar in the foyer of the main building has just opened and the first customers have already arrived. They are getting ready for the day ahead with coffee and croissants. One bleary-eyed student gathers together his things and heads for his first lecture. A new day is starting. ■

# “The customers are the focus of our work”

According to Rui Brandao, ETH's new Director of IT Services, striking a balance between the efficient provision of basic services and the special requirements of research and teaching is a challenge that he will gladly accept.

Text Norbert Staub Photo Marvin Zilm

## Dr Brandao, you have been Director of IT Services at ETH Zurich since 1 November 2016. What do you see as your biggest challenge?

Providing outstanding IT services for all areas of a large organisation with very different needs. One of our key tasks is providing IT services for all ETH members and students to use for their day-to-day work. Commodity IT, as it's known, must be stable, up-to-date, secure and cost-effective.

## And what are the other key tasks?

On the other hand, we provide support for the special requirements associated with research and teaching. For example, our specialists work closely with researchers to develop solutions for managing research data or for software tailored to their field. Another example is our range of storage solutions – from very fast flash memory to long-term storage for archiving research results.

## What role do the high-performance computers in IT Services play in this regard?

We focus on efficient, cost-effective infrastructures. Euler, for example, is a medium-performance cluster which provides flexible solutions for many researchers. Leonhard Open and Leonhard Med are intended for analysing very large volumes of data and offer new possibilities for the strategic core area of medicine. Many researchers are aware of the

opportunities offered by big data analyses, but not all of them are experts when it comes to technical implementation. In the future, research – precisely of the kind carried out at ETH – will involve even higher volumes of data and computing capacity. The expectations placed on IT Services will increase accordingly. Our aim is to provide all ETH members with the support they need to be successful in their work.

## What other areas will you be focusing on in the coming months?

We are working with Academic Services to introduce tablet devices which will make electronic assessments much more flexible. We will also be focusing on systems which provide communication options such as video telephony and collaborative editing of documents, whether it is on Windows, Apple or Linux. And of course IT security is also a key priority.

## Everyone is talking about security. How does this issue affect ETH?

Like other organisations, we have been aware for some time that the number of attacks is increasing. I think this trend will continue. Cybercrime is a real issue and it isn't going to go away. We have so far been able to fend off the attacks successfully and prevent any major damage. It is therefore all the more important that ETH is prepared for this challenge in the future as well.

## And how do you go about preparing for this challenge?

With a range of measures focusing on the areas of network security, authentication and email. The scope of an attack can be limited through skilful segmentation of the network. And with two-factor authentication, we can significantly improve access security to systems with confidential data.

## Finally, what do you see as the biggest differences between ETH – your new professional home – and the world of business that you come from?

What I've really noticed is that there is an almost unlimited supply of technological expertise at ETH, and that people here have a real emotional connection with their field and with ETH as a whole. Some ETH members perhaps aren't aware how far the university's reach extends. I experienced this personally on a recent trip to Lisbon: a young man I didn't know, probably a student, came up and spoke to me. Why? Because he spotted the ETH logo on my T-shirt. ■

### About Rui Brandao

Rui Brandao studied information systems in Zurich and has a PhD in computer science. He has been Director of ETH IT Services since 1 November 2016. He previously worked as an IT consultant at various international consultancy firms and was responsible for several IT departments and global projects at Credit Suisse over a period of 13 years. [www.ethz.ch/it-services](http://www.ethz.ch/it-services) →

Strong IT services will be even more crucial to the success of ETH in the future according to Rui Brandao, Director of IT Services since November 2016.





The ETH transfer management team (from left): Silvio Bonaccio (head of the unit and spin-offs), Marjan Kraak (spin-offs and Pioneer Fellowships), Tomas Brenner (ieLab), Andreas Klöti (research contracts) and Silke Meyns (patents, licences and software licences).

# Between the lab and the boardroom

Alongside research and teaching, the transfer of knowledge and technological expertise is one of the key tasks for ETH Zurich. Here, *life* reveals how ETH transfer helps researchers to take their findings out of the lab and into the world of business.



Photo: Nicola Pitaro

**Text** Anna Maltsev

"I ended up here completely by chance – but it's my dream job," says Silvio Bonaccio, his eyes lighting up and showing the passion that the 52-year-old has put into managing the ETH transfer staff unit for over 11 years. After a number of intense years training and travelling with Nestlé, Bonaccio – who is from St. Gallen and has a PhD in chemistry – came back to Switzerland for a brief stay. Just as he was planning to head back into the

Thomas Brenner advises a Pioneer Fellowship winner.



Photo: Nicola Pitaro

world of international business, a former fellow student told him about a vacancy in "technology transfer" at their old university. The combination of business and natural sciences and the opportunity to share the latest research findings with society were what won over Bonaccio at the time – and he has been fascinated by the same subjects ever since. "I see my work as a great privilege. And I love the variety: every day is different and you can never get bored," explains Bonaccio.

He has certainly seen a great deal of change – the current team has little in common with the specialist group in which he began his career at ETH. What began as a group of five employees in 2001 has become a team of 26; the annual number of new spin-off companies has almost tripled with over 20 a year, as has the number of contracts with third parties. And the small specialist group has become a staff unit in its own right, reporting to Vice President Research and Corporate Relations Detlef Günther. The support services are divided into the areas of research contracts; inventions, patents and software licences; spin-off support; and the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab (ieLab). Over the next few years, the

team plans to further expand and optimise its established services.

#### **Important contact point for spin-offs**

The professionalisation of ETH transfer is largely down to Bonaccio – he and his team set up the spin-off area from scratch 11 years ago. Today, ETH transfer is the contact point for any ETH members wanting to set up a company. Along with advice and support before and during the founding process, Bonaccio's team also helps young entrepreneurs to network with important stakeholders, acquire premises, access the ETH infrastructure and find suitable coaches.

ETH transfer also looks after the Pioneer Fellowship Programme, which was launched in 2010 and helps talented young entrepreneurs to develop innovative products and launch them on the market. "There are two application rounds per year, where researchers can present their projects to an expert judging panel. The best ideas win 150,000 Swiss francs and an 18-month programme in the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab," explains Bonaccio. Founded in 2011, the ieLab has space on the Hönggerberg campus in the HPL building and in ▶

► the LEO building in the city centre. Here winners of the Pioneer Fellowship Programme are guided, supported, encouraged and challenged in their entrepreneurial work by experienced mentors and coaches – people working in industry and successful business owners. Of the 68 winning projects, 51 have now been completed – and the programme, which is financed through donations, has already resulted in the founding of 35 companies, according to Bonaccio. That represents a “conversion rate” of 70 percent.

Along with providing spin-off support, another of ETH transfer's main tasks is assisting in collaborations with industry. Each ETH department has various contracts with industry partners, federal offices and foundations, with around 1,000 new contracts agreed every year. Bonaccio's team is responsible for designing and negotiating the contracts. One of the best examples is the Disney Research lab, which was founded six years ago in Zurich. The collaboration between the ETH Department of Computer Science and The Walt Disney Company has already resulted in just under 300 research projects and countless patents.

### Record number of patent applications

Bonaccio's team also look after all the patents generated within the university.



A doctoral candidate presents his project at a Pioneer Fellowship event.

Photo: Giulia Marthaler

Before an invention can be patented, a series of substantive conditions must be met. Among other things, the invention to be patented must be new and commercially applicable. As well as assessing and evaluating the invention, ETH transfer also organises and coordinates the registration of property rights, looks after technology marketing and helps to find licensees, leads the licence negotiations and takes responsibility for controlling and distributing income. Of the 215 invention disclosures submitted by ETH members in the past year, a record

number – over 100 – were patented successfully. The 78 licences granted set a new record as well.

According to Bonaccio, the greatest challenges for the team are the growing number of patent applications, spin-offs and commercial contracts, along with the increasing complexity of the projects and the different legal situations they encounter in international collaborations. Overcoming these challenges requires two things: extensive expertise and an alert team with the right spirit. Above all, it is this team spirit that keeps Bonaccio motivated every day, even after spending over 16 years in total at ETH transfer. “We're like a big family. That means a lot to me!” he says. It's clear that there is no danger of getting bored when you work at the interface between science and business. ■

### If you need help or advice...

ETH transfer can advise you regarding

- collaborating with industry
- inventions, property rights and exploiting technologies
- founding spin-offs
- participating in the Pioneer Fellowship programme
- working with the ieLab

[www.ethz.ch/transfer-en](http://www.ethz.ch/transfer-en) →



The management team has regular meetings with their supervisor Detlef Günther, Vice President Research and Corporate Relations.

Photo: Nicola Pitaro

# From “I” to “we” – research for the big issues

Text Florian Meyer

**Fundamental research is an individual pursuit. But at the same time, certain issues are so complex that no discipline can find the answer alone. So what does it mean to move from “I” to “we”?**

Fundamental research isn't something that you plan in detail like the construction of a production car. That is why ETH Zurich's strategy provides scope for fundamental research to be both individual and open-ended. However, in the case of certain subjects with far-reaching consequences, researchers from different disciplines can achieve more by pooling their knowledge than by working alone. “In the case of very complex issues requiring different types of expertise, the surprising results often come from the overlaps between the various disciplines,” says Detlef Günther, ETH Vice President Research and Corporate Relations.

One reason for this, according to Günther, is the transition from “I” to “we”. The “we” that makes the difference starts when researchers from different groups team up and develop a common language and approach for their problem.

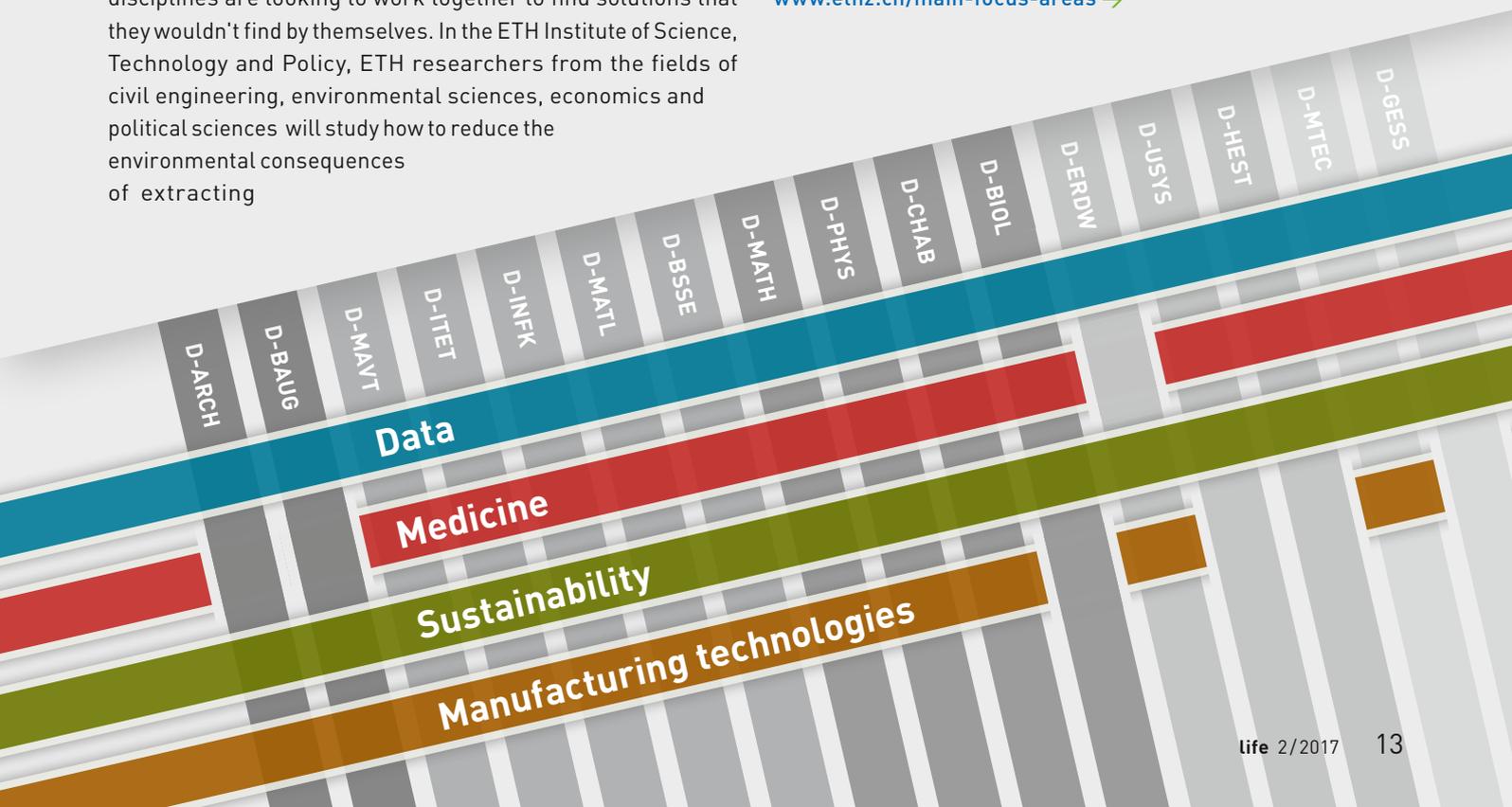
This is the case with, for example, research into the political handling of raw materials, where researchers from different disciplines are looking to work together to find solutions that they wouldn't find by themselves. In the ETH Institute of Science, Technology and Policy, ETH researchers from the fields of civil engineering, environmental sciences, economics and political sciences will study how to reduce the environmental consequences of extracting

and trading mineral raw materials (gold, copper, lithium) and how political solutions can be found.

Medicine is another field where disciplines are increasingly overlapping and tackling problems with approaches that span disciplines and institutions: the large-scale Skintegrity project involves no fewer than 26 research groups from the fields of natural sciences, engineering and medicine who are working together to develop new diagnostic methods and therapies for the skin.

For Detlef Günther, these are examples of how the sensible interlinking of different research fields can lead from “I” to “we” and open up the possibility of new solutions. According to Günther, this type of collaboration has huge potential as many issues are of a very interdisciplinary nature. ETH therefore supports this collaboration via the four overarching subjects of medicine, data, sustainability and manufacturing technologies, as well as providing general support via the ETH Research Commission. Alongside financing, informal forums such as the *convivium professorum* networking event for professors are also important. This regular evening meet-up gives ETH professors an opportunity to get to know each other and exchange ideas. “It has already resulted in a number of innovative ideas and has led to new collaborations,” concludes Günther. ■

[www.ethz.ch/main-focus-areas](http://www.ethz.ch/main-focus-areas) →



Joël Bérard

Head of Research at Agrovét-Strickhof

# More than the sum of its parts

**Text** Isabelle Herold **Photo** Florian Bachmann

Several times a week, the avid motorbike enthusiast roars along the motorway from ETH to his future workplace in Lindau. Agrovét-Strickhof, the new platform for livestock research, will open in September. Joël Bérard, the head of research, enjoys doing things at full throttle – whether it's on his Ducati or in his work. The keen mountain climber likes to challenge himself. And that helps in his professional role too: the platform involves three partners – ETH Zurich, UZH and the cantonal Strickhof centre of excellence – and brings together academics and practitioners, from the professor to

the milker. Bérard works with all of these people, and that's precisely what he likes so much about his job. And perhaps it is his bilingual background – he comes from the French/Italian Aosta Valley – that enables him to translate so seamlessly between different disciplines and levels. As well as coordinating the institutions' research projects, he is also able to initiate new projects. "That's what I'm particularly looking forward to, because I think there's huge potential at the interface between agricultural and veterinary sciences," says Bérard. Agrovét-Strickhof will be opening its doors to all interested visitors on 2 and 3 September 2017. ■ [www.agrovét-strickhof.ethz.ch](http://www.agrovét-strickhof.ethz.ch) →

**Edoardo Mazza**  
President of the  
Lecturers' Conference (KdL)



Illustration: Kornel Stadler

## 100,000 hours

It's a simple calculation: number of credits multiplied by 30 working hours multiplied by the number of students. A first-year introductory course involves somewhere in the region of 100,000 working hours in total. That's an enormous figure! How useful all of these hours are depends on the content of the lectures and exercises.

I often see the students from my introductory course working through our exercises at various times of the day, alone or in small discussion groups. How are they finding the work? Does it make sense? Is it complicated? Challenging? Or even frustrating? I obviously feel responsible for their experience. But considering the total number of working hours made me think about more than just a sense of responsibility: am I doing enough to optimise the quality of these hours?

I have been running this course for over ten years – the key content is set, as are most of the exercise topics. According to the teaching evaluation, the students are very satisfied with the course. But of course there is still potential for improvement: I could coordinate the material more closely with other courses, adapt the explanations more specifically to students' prior knowledge from school, or reconsider the course topics based on developments in my subject – to mention just a few of the improvements listed in the new "Quality in teaching at ETH Zurich" guidelines. But will I be able to find sufficient time and resources for these improvements? The work in my

research group is particularly demanding and exciting at the moment – we want to get papers published in journals with a high impact factor...

Yes, bibliometric indicators. We all know that they don't necessarily correlate with the quality and relevance of the research. But they are undoubtedly powerful steering tools and they influence the priorities in professors' agendas. You could compare it to the students' examinations: good marks don't necessarily correlate with in-depth, lasting knowledge. But the nature of the questions and the exam content will determine what the students spend their time on during their many hours of exam preparation. In other words, how well the 100,000 hours of these extremely receptive minds are invested. And that is determined by us, the lecturers: big responsibility, enormous impact factor. ■

*Edoardo Mazza*

**Edoardo Mazza**

**KdL**

Edoardo Mazza is Professor for Mechanics and President of the Lecturers' Conference (KdL). The KdL advises the Executive Board on matters regarding the teaching staff and protects their interests. [www.kdl.ethz.ch](http://www.kdl.ethz.ch) →

**ETH Alumni Association**

## A network that spans the globe

The slogan of the ETH Alumni Association is "Get connected". For nearly 150 years, we have been helping our alumni to keep in touch with each other for the rest of their lives after graduating from ETH Zurich. This involves a worldwide network, which is becoming increasingly important in this global age.

Our international chapters can be found all over the world. They provide a professional and social network to help alumni and ETH lecturers to gain a foothold in a new country, while also raising the profile of ETH Zurich around the globe. Our alumni maintain relationships with local interest groups such as universities, industry and embassies and thereby help to bring talented researchers to ETH.

In order to strengthen this international network and the connection to ETH, visitors from our alma mater are always welcomed at the chapters. ETH Rector Sarah Springman, for example, has visited both the New England Chapter and the Singapore Chapter. ETH Professor Renate Schubert also took the opportunity to visit the Singapore Chapter while staying in Asia.

A strong network thrives on active participation. We therefore warmly invite



all ETH lecturers to visit the alumni chapters when travelling abroad. You can find a list of the chapters on our website. We look forward to seeing you!

**Dr Nicole Frick, Director  
of the ETH Alumni Association**  
[www.alumni.ethz.ch](http://www.alumni.ethz.ch) →



## The cargo bike – forget the car and go!

The bicycle was invented 200 years ago. At the time, it was a mini technological revolution, but now it is a proven method of reducing CO<sub>2</sub>. As of 6 June 2017, a cargo e-bike will be available to ETH members on the Hönggerberg campus. Once you have registered with carvelo2go online, you can hire the cargo bike for a fee from the Bistro on an hourly or daily basis. It was launched by the ETH Zurich Mobility Platform and the Mobility Academy. There are 20 sites in total in Zurich. (Photo: Mobility Academy)  
[www.ethz.ch/mobility](http://www.ethz.ch/mobility) →